

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

JUNE 2002 NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

September Musicale

Remember: NO Musicales during the summer months. Our next monthly Musicale will be the second Monday in September (to avoid Labor Day): Monday 9 September 2002, at 7:30 pm. More information in the September Newsletter. No Newsletter in July or August.

Looking Ahead

Austin Circle of Theaters (ACOT)
B. Iden Payne Awards on Monday 30 September

Help us plan for future Musicales
Mondays, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December 2002

Next Board Meeting

Since the previously scheduled date of 3 June conflicts with the Austin Critics Table Awards, for which Holton Johnson has received a nomination, we will probably meet at another date. For information call Reba Gillman 327-2277.



Janet Coker as Aline and Holton Johnson as Alexis in last summer's *The Sorcerer*.

Congratulations!

Holton Johnson, who was Alexis in *The Sorcerer* last summer, has been nominated for a Critics Table award as Best Male Singer, Classical Music.

The awards will be presented on Monday June 3 at a location to be announced.

Message from Your President

• Larry Shepley

At the last Board meeting we decided that the lavish champagne buffet which we traditionally serve on opening night should be FREE to ticket holders. So, please join us for the grand opening on Friday June 14 of

Trial by Jury ... And More.

It's best to call AusTix 454-TIXS for tickets rather than the office. They are better set up for taking reservations than we are — but if you do contact us directly, rest assured that we will do our best to see that your requests are filled. Of course, if you want to save a bit of money, come to our Thursday evening performance June 13, the half-price preview. Our evening performance on Saturday June 15 and matinée performance on Sunday June 16 will be great, too. (I get to go to all performances!) Evening shows start at 8:00 pm and the matinée starts at 3:00 pm.

We will again be at the Helm Theater of St. Stephen's School on Bunny Run. See directions on back page. Chris Buggé has once again provided a golf cart for transportation up the hill from the parking lot — thank you, Chris!

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona has been hard at work rehearsing the singers. The "*And More*" part of the program will be the first half (the Board decided not to use the vaudeville term "olio" to describe this portion, which I, as an avid crossword puzzle fan had pushed). It will consist of scenes from G&S, including Janette Jones as Mad Margaret (*Ruddigore*) plus songs from *Princess Ida*, *The Mikado*, and ... but come to see what else we have planned! Jeffrey has selected three of Sullivan's choral pieces for the *And More*, and Gary Hallock will be presenting one of Gilbert's Bab Ballads.

G'ann Boyd has promised a nice, "silly" presentation of Trial by Jury, and this should be one of the highlights of Austin's summer season! With Holton Johnson as Edwin, he who jilted Angelina, played by Christine Walsh; Bob Nelson as the Usher; Arthur DiBianca as the Foreman; and Eric Peabody as the Counsel for Angelina; how can we miss? And of course there is Janette Jones as a bridesmaid, and a cast which can only be described as "all star." Last but far from least, Frank Delvy, who was our Sorcerer last year, will be the Learned Judge — "all my law is fudge, Yet of beauty I'm a judge." All together now: "And a good judge too!"

It takes money, of course, to put on a show, so please help us. Adopt a prop or a player or take out an ad in the Playbill: a business card ad is only \$50, and personal business cards are accepted with gratitude (details elsewhere in the Newsletter).

See you at the Trial!

Last Musicale

Reba Gillman • Secretary

The final Musicale of the season took place on Monday May 6, 2002, at Paula Tyler's. Present were 37 members, friends, and performers: Lucian Chimene, Clydene Freeman with Kay Hill, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Nancy Jane Griffith with Ruth Conlan, Enid Hallock, Gary Hallock, Bill & Nan Hatcher, Allen Lawshae & JoAnn Reeves, Robert McIlain, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Maurice Ommerman, Joan Pearsall with Carla Ceresa, Bee Harris Palome, Martha Schumacher, Steve & Eve Schwartzman, Larry Shepley, Leland L. Smith, Ed & Jean Smootz with Frank Wicker, Paula Tyler, Libby Weed, and Theresa Wilson with Ed Burns; the performers were members Holton Johnson, Brad Merrell, Errol Olson, Eric Peabody, and Christine Walsh, with Lord High Pianist Karl Logue.

Announcements concerned the July production of *Trial by Jury* on June 13, 14, 15 at 8 pm and June 16 at 3 pm. The lavish buffet and Gala on Friday June 14, will be provided by donations and open to all at no extra cost (\$20 per ticket). The Thursday, June 13 performance will be a preview at half price (quarter price to children). Members will get tickets at 10% discount. Some volunteer ushers are needed (see the show free). Ads in the playbill will cost \$50 for a business card sized ad, \$100 for a half page, and \$200 for a full page. People are also invited to contribute money to adopt a piece of the show (such as a chorus member, a set, a costume, etc). Finally we were reminded that since the show runs for only four performances we need all the free and word-of-mouth advertisement we can get in order to pack the theater.

Reba announced that the next Board meeting would take place on Monday, May 13, at 7 pm at Paula Tyler's.

Larry then introduced Libby Weed, who said that she was the talking head, but Arthur DiBianca planned the program and recruited the singers, and Jean Smootz printed the program. She proceeded to introduce each singer with a thumbnail sketch of his/her background. The program followed, with four songs from Gilbert & Sullivan, and three from other works.

Eric Peabody sang "A last year's rose" by Roger Quilter, a British contemporary of Sullivan's. Eric then joined Christine Walsh in the duet from *Patience*, "Prithee pretty maiden." Holton Johnson sang "When first my old, old love I knew," from *Trial by Jury*, and Brad Merrell sang "Free from his fetters grim," from *Yeomen of the Guard*.

Errol Olson (a self-styled Minnesota farm boy from northeast of Lake Wobegon) said that the old world was civilized and America had Tin Pan Alley. He then gave us a dramatic presentation of "Asleep in the deep" by Henry Petry and Arthur J. Lamb. Christine sang the lovely "The sun whose rays," from *The Mikado*. Libby then asked for introductions from the unfamiliar faces. Nancy Griffith introduced her mother, Ruth Conlan, a long-time G&S lover; Jean Smootz introduced Frank Wicker; Terri Wilson introduced Ed Burns, who had been in the audience for our *Princess Ida* at Westminster Manor; Clydene Freeman introduced her friend and former member Kay Hill; and Joan Pearsall told us that her friend and former member

Carla Ceresa was celebrating her birthday today, upon which we all joined in singing a lusty "Happy Birthday."

The final number on the program was "The Pearl Fishers' Duet" from Bizet's opera *The Pearl Fishers*, sung by Eric and Holton. Eric then sang the Pirate King lead in, and we all rose to sing "Hail Poetry" from *Pirates*, followed by "Now to the banquet we press" from *The Sorcerer*. Then on to the customary goodies and good fellowship. Many thanks, as always, to Paula for her welcoming hospitality.

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News of Members — Congratulations to:

Andrew Hallock, who has just graduated from UT Austin School of Music with a major in composition.

James Shields, the son of **Gregory & Katharine**. He is graduating from Westlake High School and will attend the Juilliard School of Music in the fall. He is a crackerjack clarinetist.

Note: News of members is always welcome and newsworthy. Please let me know of any significant or interesting events in your lives.

Reba Gillman (327-2277), Secretary & Newsletter Editor

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RIDE UP THE HILL

Thanks to Chris Buggé for providing the golf cart which will offer rides up the hill to the theater from the parking lot.

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FLASH

A crisis arose this week when Larry Shepley had to take his Mac to be repaired. How could he provide the layout for this Newsletter? Many thanks to Sue Caldwell, who came to our rescue: Larry is working on her PC to get out the Newsletter. You may notice a few slight variations as a result.

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CAST PARTY

For the past few years Len and Reba Gillman have thrown a party at the end of the show run. This year we will unfortunately be out of town on June 15 and 16. Therefore we propose to postpone the party and invite the cast, crew, orchestra, and Board members to a late afternoon bash on Sunday, June 13.





From *The Sorcerer* last summer: **Frank Delvy** is the Sorcerer J. Wellington Wells; he will be the Learned Judge in *Trial by Jury*. Others from left to right are Catherine Bartoli (Lady Sangazure), Nancy Arnold (chorus; she'll be in our show this summer), Janet Coker (Aline), Derek Smootz (chorus; he'll be in our show this summer), Holton Johnson (Alexis; he'll be Edwin the Defendant in *Trial*), Gary Hallock (Notary; he'll present a Bab Ballad in this summer's show), and Christine Walsh (Constance; she'll be Angelina the Plaintiff in *Trial*).

Contribute to the success of *Trial by Jury* ... And More: Adopt a player or a prop!

Your name will be listed prominently in the Playbill, and our gratitude will be effusive:

At the \$75 level: Chorus Member
 At the \$250 level: Principal Performer
 At the \$300 level: Steinway Piano
 Security/Parking
 Technician

At the \$500 level: Costumer
 Souvenir Libretto
 Accompanist

Please call our office at 472-4772

Membership Form

We encourage you to join our Society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal date on the top of the mailing label. If expired or near expiration, your membership needs to be updated! To correct your address, renew your membership, or become a member, complete this form, and mail it to us at:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
 P.O. Box 684542
 Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

Name (as you want it to appear) _____
 Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 E-mail address _____
 What company do you work for? _____

Please check membership category:

- ☒ Individual: \$20
- ☒ Family/Group: \$30
- ☒ Youth (18 & under): \$10
- ☒ Senior (65 & over): \$10
- Membership benefits include our Newsletter & 10% discount on tickets.
- ☒ My donation of _____ is enclosed.
(For levels & privileges, see below.)
- ☒ I'm interested in becoming a business sponsor. Please call me.
- ☒ I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider contributing to The Society at one of the following **Donor Levels**: **Patron** (\$50-\$99), **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249); **Major General** (\$250-\$499); **Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999); **Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499); **Savoyard** (\$2500 & up). Donors receive various benefits, including membership, listing in programs, and other benefits. Please call our office for further information.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of
Gilbert & Sullivan through

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Reba Gillman

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Larry Shepley

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org

E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)3 of the IRS code.

Trial by Jury ... And More

at the Helm Theater, St. Stephen's School, 2900 Bunny Run

Stage Director: **G'ann Boyd** Music Director: **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona**

ONLY FOUR SHOWS!

Thursday 13 June, 8:00 pm — Half-Price Preview

Friday 14 June, 8:00 pm — includes free Champagne Buffet & Party after the Show

Saturday 15 June, 8:00 pm — Evening Performance

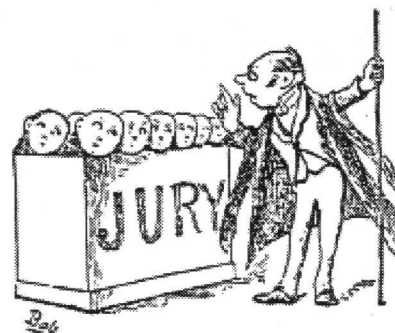
Sunday 16 June, 3:00 pm — Matinée Performance

Reserved Seats — Tickets \$20 — 10% discount for members

For tickets call AusTix 454-TIXS (454-8497)

Ask about discounts for Young Persons and Groups

Directions: Take Loop 360 to two lights south of the Lake Austin Bridge. Turn west on Westlake Drive and go to Bunny Run; left on Bunny Run to St. Stephen's School.



Advertise in the Playbill

Business-card ads (1/4 page) are only \$50.

Full-page and half-page ads also available.

Please call our office for details: 472-4772

THE
**Gilbert
&
Sullivan**

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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